IN THE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

On page 4, please make the following changes:

[0014] FIG. 5 is a plot of an example of voltage surge response curve according to one embodiment of the invention; ~~and~~

[0015] FIG. 6 is a graph of an example of a comparison between conventional ramp down and ramp down according to one embodiment of the invention;~~.~~

[0015a] FIG. 7 is a flow diagram of a method according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0015b] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram of a method according to an embodiment of the present invention.

IN THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

On page 9, in paragraph [0029], please make the following changes:

[0029] One approach to accelerating the current ramp down rate is shown in greater detail at block 78 in FIG. 8. Specifically, ~~74~~ 84 provides for receiving a level signal, and block 86 provides for converting the level signal into a pulse signal based on a ramp down current measurement, which can be taken via the sensing resistor, Rs (FIG. 4). The width of the pulse can be determined in other ways as well. A surge inductor is switched into a parallel connection with an output inductor of the power output stage at block 88 in order to reduce the effective inductance of the ramp down current path of the power output stage. This phenomenon is shown further in the plot 92 of FIG. 6 in which a conventional current ramp down curve 94 is compared to an accelerated current ramp down curve 96. As can be seen in FIG. 6, the new inductor current ramp down rate is much faster than that of the old inductor current plot. Due to the faster discharge rate, the output voltage surge is significantly reduced. As such, the output voltage stays within the allowable tolerance window or V_{MAX}.